

Inside

- *Commentary*
Recruiter's promise fulfilled 2
- Air Force, Civil Air Patrol
sign agreement 3
- FY01 defense bill approved 4

NEWSBYTES

Nearly 20,000 selected for promotion to E-5

The Air Force will release the staff sergeant promotion list at the first duty hour on July 19 (July 20 for those units across the international date line).

The Air Force selected 19,605 of 38,654 eligible senior airmen for promotion. This represents an overall 51 percent selection rate for the 00E5 cycle for an all-time record setting percentage. The complete list of selectees becomes available on the Air Force Personnel Center's World Wide Web Home Page at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil> July 21, by end of duty day CST.

Accident report released

Insufficient altitude and excessive air-speed resulted in the fatal crash of an F-16 March 19 at the Kingsville Naval Air Station, Texas air show, an accident report concluded.

The pilot, Maj. Brison B. Phillips of the 78th Fighter Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., was killed in the accident. Investigators concluded strong winds and a complex and unfamiliar ground environment may have caused Major Phillips to focus on ground references leading him to begin a Split-S maneuver from an unsafe position.

Assignment list due Aug. 8

A new listing of overseas assignments available to enlisted members will be released Aug. 8 to military personnel flights and on the Air Force Personnel Center's World Wide Web page. Personnel officials recommend updating assignment preferences by Aug. 18 to ensure system data is correct before assignments are made and released around Sept. 4.

Recruiters earn ribbon, promotion points

WASHINGTON - The Air Force has approved a new ribbon recognizing the efforts of recruiters and providing the opportunity for them to earn extra points toward promotion.

The announcement comes at a time when it appears the Air Force's goal of 34,000 new recruits will be met this year.

"Not only is this a great way to reward the accomplishments of our recruiters, it also serves as a great incentive for those considering a tour as a recruiter," said Carol DiBattiste, Under Secretary of the Air Force.

The recruiting ribbon is designed to acknowledge past, present, and future Air Force recruiters and will be awarded upon graduation from Air Force Recruiting School, according to Teresa Pohlman, chief, Force Sustainment Division, at the air staff.

"This award will recognize the commitment and dedication required in the recruit-



Air Force recruiters will soon be able to wear a new ribbon acknowledging their commitment and dedication.

ing field, and signifies the challenges faced in recruiting the Air Force of tomorrow," Ms. Pohlman said.

continued on Page 4

Debt collection program eases credit hassles

WASHINGTON — Air Force families will no longer have to face the stress of resolving TRICARE-related debt by themselves. Beginning July 28 every military treatment facility and TRICARE lead agent office will have a debt collection assistance officer as their single point of contact for resolving collection concerns.

The new program, recently announced by the Department of Defense, directs a debt collection assistance officer to help service members, retirees and their eligible family mem-



bers with TRICARE-related debt problems.

"We do not want our service members to have the burden of resolving individual claims. They should not have to worry about negotiations with multiple agencies to settle outstanding claims, stressful notices from bill collectors and, sometimes, adverse ratings in their credit reports," said Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Bernard Rostker.

continued on Page 4



Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>. Due to the number of letters, not all can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered. Due to the length of the editorial, Letters to the Editor are only available online this week.

Bronze Star

A reader sounds off about the Bronze Star awarded for Operation Allied Force. Another says "we should tell a possible recruit exactly what we think." Go online to get their comments.



Recruiter's promises: Fulfilled by dedication, pride in service

By Lt. Col. John Sokolsky
Air Combat Command

Face it, some of us have had a few choice words for our friendly recruiter a few times at the beginning of our career.

The first time was no doubt sometime between day two and day 28 at Lackland AFB, Texas, when the recruiter's description of basic military training being a summer camp to teach one how to wear the uniform gave way to the harsh reality. That reality was "oh-dark-thirty" wake-ups by chronically grumpy NCOs with a penchant for tossing trashcans down the center of the aisle, screaming, "Get up!"

Six weeks later (or sometimes seven or eight) we left basic for our technical training school, many times in a job that had little semblance to the one we thought we were getting when we signed on the dotted line.

Spotty teenager: "Hi, I'd like to be a general." Wiseden recruiter: "Sure thing; just sign here under 'General-Open'."

Seven weeks later, you leave with a promising career in the landscaping industry as a rock painter.

The second time you think of your recruiter must be as you are 30 days into your 90-day, all-expenses-paid vacation to the beach in an exotic country. Funny how he failed to mention the water was going to be 200 miles away. He wasn't kidding about the sand though.

But I seriously thought of my recruiter April 21, 1991, when I was flying my first sortie in an A-10 over Northern Iraq supporting Operation Provide Comfort. Truly it was a lesson in American civics that no civilian educational center could replicate. Just a few days earlier, I had been sitting at my air base in the United Kingdom, dealing with the frustrated feelings of having missed Desert Storm while a member of the largest fighter wing in the free world.

The shooting was over and the Iraqi troops were down, but not out. They turned their sights from the Coalition Forces to their own people in Northern Iraq. It was a sight I could never forget as I descended through the clouds — tens of thousands of men, women and children fleeing their homes in whatever transportation they could muster to retreat up the cloud-laden mountains.

Vehicles lay abandoned, the roads too steep and primitive to support anything short of a mountain goat,

and these people formed several groups, each 50,000 to 60,000 strong, on the exposed mountaintops. There was no shelter, no water, no food.

For the next several months the same coalition that had so precisely dropped bombs shifted their munitions to food and water. The tank-busting A-10's mission shifted to forward scout and escort, guiding numerous C-130s and C-160s to several drop zones daily to deliver their life-saving goods.

The coalition then built an entire city in mere weeks, and under the umbrella of coalition air and ground forces, escorted the Kurdish people off the mountains and back to their newly constructed, if not temporary home. Coalition forces "encouraged" the Iraqis to return back to the south (at gunpoint). A tentative, if not tense, truce existed, and the civilians were allowed to restart their lives.

No, I didn't have to fire one bullet. In fact, due to the impressive display of precision firepower from Desert Storm veterans, the last thing the Iraqi military wanted was another scrap with the coalition.

This situation in the spring and summer of 1991, repeated several times since in various regions worldwide, gave me pause to think of the incredible privilege we enjoy in the United States.

Just think — about the only time you will see any line longer than a few thousand would be at a Doobie Brothers/Kansas Golden Oldies concert men's room.

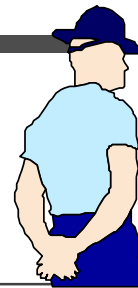
The Constitution we all swore to defend ensures problems are resolved mutually and without force. Our standard of living and economic opportunity are envied the world over, with people queued endlessly to become U.S. citizens.

And so it is that every time I return from another austere deployment or remote — and there have been several — an overwhelming sense of pride fills me. This is one of those intangible benefits hard to duplicate in the civilian sector.

The men and women who recently returned from Aerospace Expeditionary Force 5 hopefully felt the same surge as they crossed the ocean and set foot back in the United States. They made a real difference.

With that in mind, I would like to meet my recruiter from a few decades past to thank him for having me sign on the dotted line, whatever the promise. Unarmed ... honest!

(Colonel Sokolsky is the 355th Operations Support Squadron commander, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.)



"That reality was 'oh-dark-thirty' wake-ups by chronically grumpy NCOs with a penchant for tossing trashcans down the center of the aisle, screaming, 'Get up!'"



Civil Air Patrol

■ Air Force, CAP sign agreement

WASHINGTON – The Air Force and the Civil Air Patrol signed a new cooperative agreement July 12 outlining their future working relationship and providing the service with more control and oversight of its volunteer civilian auxiliary.

“The agreement and statement of work signed today, along with legislation now pending before Congress, will establish an operating structure that will work for CAP, the Air Force and the taxpayers,” said Secretary of the Air Force Whit Peters. “The big winners should be the CAP cadets and leaders in the field.”

The signing of this agreement, culminating months of negotiations, heralds a new era for both the Civil Air Patrol and the Air Force, according to CAP National Commander Brig. Gen. James C. Bobick.

The terms of the agreement outline enforcement and termination procedures; program management; financial responsibilities; resolution procedures for claims, disputes and appeals; reporting of program performance; and certifications and assurances.

In February, the CAP’s national board members approved the creation of a new



A Civil Air Patrol cadet receives a preflight briefing from his instructor before a glider flight during the CAP National Flight Academy (glider). (Photo by Michelle Gardner)

board of governors that includes representatives from the Air Force, Congress, industry and the CAP.

Specifics of the document are detailed in the “Statement of Work for Civil Air Patrol,” which is attached to the cooperative agreement, which begins Oct. 1 and continues through Sept. 30, 2001. However, it can be extended based on the availability of appropriated funds.

The cooperative agreement, along with congressional approval of the proposed legislation and installment of the new board of governors, will result in a closer working relationship with the Air Force, General Bobick said.

This article is available in its entirety online.

Charges preferred against AF officer

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. – An officer assigned to the 463rd Airlift Group at Little Rock AFB, Ark., was charged July 17 with dereliction of duty and negligent homicide for his role in the C-130E aircraft accident Dec. 10, 1999, at Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait. The accident killed three airmen and injured seven.

Two charges were preferred against Capt. Darron A. Haughn by Brig. Gen. Richard J. Casey, 43rd Airlift Wing commander, Pope AFB, N.C., based on General Casey’s review of the accident investigation board results from the mishap. Captain Haughn, the C-130E aircraft commander, was charged with violating Article 92, dereliction of duty, and Article 134, negligent homicide, of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

General Casey was appointed by Maj. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr., 21st Air Force commander, to review the incident for possible disciplinary action after the accident investigation board concluded the cause of the mishap was crew complacency and failure to follow governing directives.

The charges preferred will be delivered to the special court-martial convening authority, Brig. Gen. Paul J. Fletcher, 314th Airlift Wing commander, Little Rock AFB, who will make an initial determination on the disposition of the case. This may range from no action to appointment of an investigation officer under Article 32 of the UCMJ.

66th Rescue Squadron aids injured motorist

By John Monroe

Air Warfare Center Public Affairs

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (ACCNS) — A routine training mission recently turned into a real-life rescue scenario for members of the 66th Rescue Squadron here.

While on a helicopter training mission July 10 near Lake Mead, Nev., a 66th flight crew witnessed a civilian motorcyclist veer off the road and crash. The crew passed over the site several times to assess the accident and discovered that the motorist was not moving.

Captain Cedric Stark, aircraft commander, quickly decided the victim needed immediate aid. He called back to the 66th RQS staff to have a pararescue man prepped and ready for full rescue status.

“We felt that since we witnessed the accident, it was our duty to do something,” Captain Stark said. “Although we saw other motorists going to help we knew that we needed to get back to Nellis and



Members of the 66th Rescue Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev., aided an injured motorist until civilian medical authorities arrived on-scene.

get him the best medical attention.”

The helicopter crew went back to Nellis to pick up pararescue medics Staff Sgt. Brian Jackson and crewmates Senior Airman Michael Amis and Airman 1st Class Jonathan McCoy.

“I thought a fellow crewman was hurt,” Sergeant Jackson said. “I felt pressured for time and rushed. I didn’t know what was going on, especially since we were not necessarily ready for this. I just grabbed what I thought I needed and got to work.”

The complete team returned to the scene of the accident and landed the helicopter safely despite the traffic and crowds that had gathered around the accident scene.

After tending to the victim, a civilian medical crew arrived on scene and transported him to a local hospital. The man was in moderate condition and gained consciousness when the ambulance arrived. *This article is available in its entirety online.*



Recruiters earn ribbon, points

■ Estimated availability
8-10 months

continued from Page 1

Individuals will be authorized to wear the ribbon on a temporary basis while performing recruiting duty immediately upon graduation from Air Force Recruiting School. They will be entitled to permanent wear upon successful completion of 36 months of duty as an Air Force recruiter. Authorization to certify an individual for permanent wear of the ribbon rests with the recruiter's commander.

Wear of the ribbon is retroactive for any individual who has successfully completed 36 months of duty as an Air Force recruiter and is currently on active duty or a member of a Reserve component.

In addition to the ribbon, enlisted recruiters will have the opportunity to earn a one-time award of two points toward promotion under the Weighted Airman Promotion Sys-

tem. Entitlement for the one-time, two point promotion bonus becomes effective for those who are currently assigned as recruiters, and have completed 36 months of recruiting duty as of June 21. Former recruiters and those who have been temporarily assigned to support the career field won't be authorized the bonus points.

However, Air Force officials recommend the temporarily assigned recruiters be considered for an appropriate decoration at the end of their temporary duty if their performance warrants. This affords them the same opportunity for recognition as other enlisted airmen who are deployed in support of short-notice contingencies. The ribbon will not be available to service members for several months. Officials estimate it will take eight to 10 months to have the ribbon developed, manufactured, and available through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Once available, the ribbon will be worn between the Military Training Instructor Ribbon and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Debt collection program eases credit hassles

continued from Page 1

For the first time, an assistance officer located at each military treatment facility and TRICARE lead agent office will be the "go to" person when a TRICARE beneficiary needs help with these kinds of problems.

Once contacted by a TRICARE-eligible beneficiary, the debt collection assistance officer will intercede with all agencies involved, including: military personnel offices, the military treatment facilities, lead agents, network and non-network providers, TRICARE Management Activity, managed care support contractors, and even debt collection agencies when appropriate, to resolve a collection issue arising from a TRICARE claim.

This article is available in its entirety online.

House-Senate conferees approve FY01 defense bill

WASHINGTON – House and Senate appropriations conference committee members agreed July 13 on a final \$288 billion spending bill for the Department of Defense for fiscal 2001. The appropriations bill provides the budget authority for defense spending while the authorization bill, just now going into conference, provides the legal authority.

The appropriations bill provides funds for the F-22 program and additional C-17 aircraft but cuts funds for the Joint Strike Fighter program by \$150 million.

The conference committee endorsed nearly \$1 billion more for military health care. The legislation will also provide a substantial boost to training programs, support equipment and quality of life for the nation's 2.1 million active-duty, reserve and National Guard people, said Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens and Congressman Jerry Lewis, chairman of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

"This is the earliest we have reported the defense appropriations bill out of conference. It is a good bill that shows strong support for our military and provides the necessary funding to address

the severe strains the Department of Defense is facing regarding maintenance and quality of life issues," Senator Stevens said.

The bill (H.R. 4576) provides an increase of \$19.8 billion over the current fiscal year defense appropriation, and nearly \$4 billion more than was budgeted for defense by the president, the two congressmen said.

Conferees again provided funding to improve training, benefits and quality of life for military personnel. The health and welfare of military members has also been given priority, with funding for the Defense Health Program rising \$988 million over the current fiscal year - a nearly 9 percent increase, Congressmen Lewis and Stevens said. That funding will implement military health care enhancements recently approved by the House in the FY01 National Defense Authorization Act.

"This legislation will pay for a roadmap for future implementation of permanent health care for retirees, and restores pharmacy access for most of those former service members," Congressman Lewis said. *Highlights of the bill and this article in its entirety are available online.*



U.S. Air Force ONLINE news

U.S. Air Force ONLINE news is produced each Wednesday by the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs and is available via Air Force Link (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>). This funded U.S. Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for Air Force members and their families. Content is endorsed by the Department of the Air Force, but is not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or Department of Defense. Editorial offices: SAF/PAI, 901 N. Stuart Suite 605, Arlington VA 22203. Telephone (703) 696-7832, Fax (703) 696-9162. Please post on unit bulletin boards and pass this copy on to others who need current Air Force news and information. Reproduce as needed.

Publishers

Hon. F. Whitten Peters, *Secretary of the Air Force*
Gen. Michael E. Ryan, *Air Force Chief of Staff*

Editor-in-Chief

Brig. Gen. Ronald T. Rand, *Director of Public Affairs*

Executive Editor

Col. Linda Leong, *Chief, Air Force News and Information*

Managing Editor

Senior Master Sgt. Linda Brandon

Staff Writers

Tech. Sgt. R.R. Getsy, Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller
and Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker

Technical Production

Capt. Laurel Scherer and Tech. Sgt. Tom Mullican